

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In response to the final Office Action mailed April 3, 2008, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 27 and 28, which have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-7, 19, 20, 22-26 and 29 are currently pending in the application.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 1-3, 5-7, 19, 20, 22-24 are allowable, and that claims 26-28 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their parent claims. Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 27 and 28. Thus, all claims 1-3, 5-7, 19, 20, 22-26 and 29 are in condition for allowance.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 4,618,085) in view of Rutherford (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,551). As discussed above, claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 27 and 28. Thus, claims 25 and 29 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

2. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 26-28 as being dependent on rejected claims, but stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 27 and 28 have been cancelled, and claim 26 depends from allowable claim 25. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to place this case in condition for allowance. Allowance of all of claims 1-3, 5-7, 19, 20, and 22-26 and 29 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees indicated in the Fee Transmittal, any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 194293, Deposit Account Name STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 734-3200. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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